

Junior Duck Stamp Program

Conservation Through the Arts

What is the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program?

The Federal Junior Duck Stamp (JDS) Conservation and Design Program is a dynamic education program that teaches students in kindergarten through high school about wetlands and waterfowl conservation. The program combines scientific principles and nature exploration with visual and language arts, bringing new interest to all of these disciplines.

Dedicated teachers and parents incorporate the JDS program into various learning environments - public and private school classrooms, home schools, and nonformal education settings such as scout groups, 4-H and national wildlife refuges.

After learning about wetlands and waterfowl conservation, students create drawings and paintings of North American waterfowl species to submit to their state Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest. The winning art from each state is judged in a national contest.

In 2014, over 29,000 children from all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and several U.S. territories participated in the art contest. Thousands of students also participated in JDS education activities in schools, after-school programs, homes and nature centers.

Tools for 2014: A Fresh Education Curriculum

As we enter the third decade of the Junior Duck Stamp Program, we have introduced a new curriculum, modernized to be more relevant to teaching in the age of technology. The new curriculum is designed to spark youth interest in habitat conservation through engaging activities that involve science, art and math.



The Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest gives children a chance to express their knowledge visually. Credit: LaVonda Walton / USFWS



*2014-2015 Junior Duck Stamp - King Eider
Art by Si youn Kim, 16, of Tenafly, NJ*

Written, field-tested and evaluated by environmental educators, biologists, and teachers, the curriculum covers today's conservation challenges, such as climate change and its impact on wetland habitat. It is multi-culturally relevant and designed to stimulate students' interest in careers in nature.

These new curriculum and education tools, which are free and available at www.fws.gov/juniorduck, give students, parents and educators an opportunity to investigate what is fun, unique and mysterious about waterfowl and wetlands in North America.

The Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest

Each state holds a contest during which art is judged in various age groups, then submits one "Best of Show" to the national contest.

The winning art at the national level is made into the Junior Duck Stamp, which sells for \$5 and raises money for environmental education. More than \$200,000 has been raised in the past 21 years through the sale of these stamps.

At the national level, students with the top three art entries and the top conservation message receive scholarship awards. In addition to receiving a scholarship, the first place winner and a parent participate in the First Day of Sale Ceremony for the Federal and Junior Duck Stamps.

When is the Junior Duck Stamp Contest held?

State contests are held in March and April (earlier in some states); the national contest is held in late April each year at a different location throughout the country. In 2014, the contest was held at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, W. Va. A location for the 2014 National Junior Duck Stamp Contest has not yet been selected. Check www.fws.gov/juniorduck for the latest information on the 2014 -2015 contest.

The program is administered by state and regional coordinators, who are employees of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, state natural resource agencies or nonprofit conservation organizations. Partners and donors are always welcome to assist us with the program.

How can I buy Junior Duck Stamps?

Junior Duck Stamps are sold through the U.S. Postal Service's Philatelic Catalog, online through Amplex, a distribution company, at some national wildlife refuges, and at other consignment locations. The Federal

Duck Stamp Office allows licensed vendors to produce and sell products bearing the images of both Federal and Junior Duck Stamps. To be a licensee, contact the Federal Duck Stamp office at duckstamps@fws.gov.

Celebrating 22 Years of the Junior Duck Stamp Program!

From just one state, the Junior Duck Stamp Program has grown to be a national initiative. In 1989, a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation helped create a conservation and arts curriculum called the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program. In 1992, the first stamps were sold on a sheet that included winners from each participating state.

In 1994, Congress passed the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program Act, authorizing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to sponsor the program and annually produce the Junior Duck Stamp.

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Junior Duck Stamp Program
(703) 358-1784
duckstamps@fws.gov
www.fws.gov/juniorduck**

**On Facebook:
Federal Junior Duck Stamp**

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**Conservation
Through the Arts**
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

What people are saying about the Junior Duck Stamp Program:

"The Junior Duck Stamp Program taps into children's creativity while bringing the outdoors into the classroom." Junior Duck Stamp Coordinator

"When I first saw the picture of a King Eider, the color and the shape grabbed my attention. After my research I realized that this duck is much more interesting than what I originally thought." --Si youn Kim, 16, NJ

"Conserving a habitat is like painting a background. Without it the picture is not complete." 2014-2015 conservation message winner Max Cheng, 15, of Fremont, CA

**Buy Junior Duck Stamps -
Support Conservation
Education!**

**U.S. Postal Service
www.usps.com
1-800-782-6724 (1-800-STAMP24)**

**Amplex Corporation
www.duckstamp.com
1-800-852-4897**

**Find a national wildlife refuge
that sells Junior Duck Stamps:
www.fws.gov/refuges
(call first to ensure they sell the stamp)**